No. 897,843. PATENTED SEPT. 1, 1908.

R. H. McCOMBE.

EXTENSIBLE POST OR PROP.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 10, 1907.

Fig. 1.

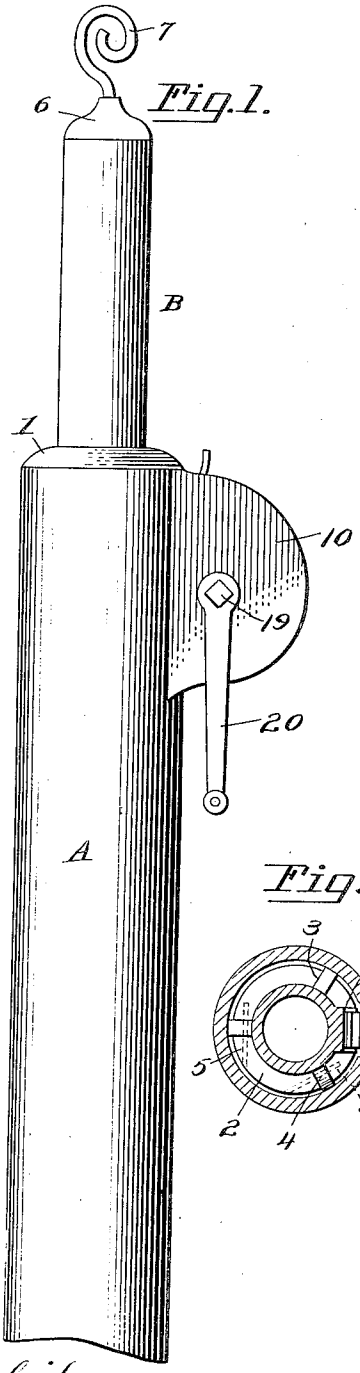


Fig. 2.

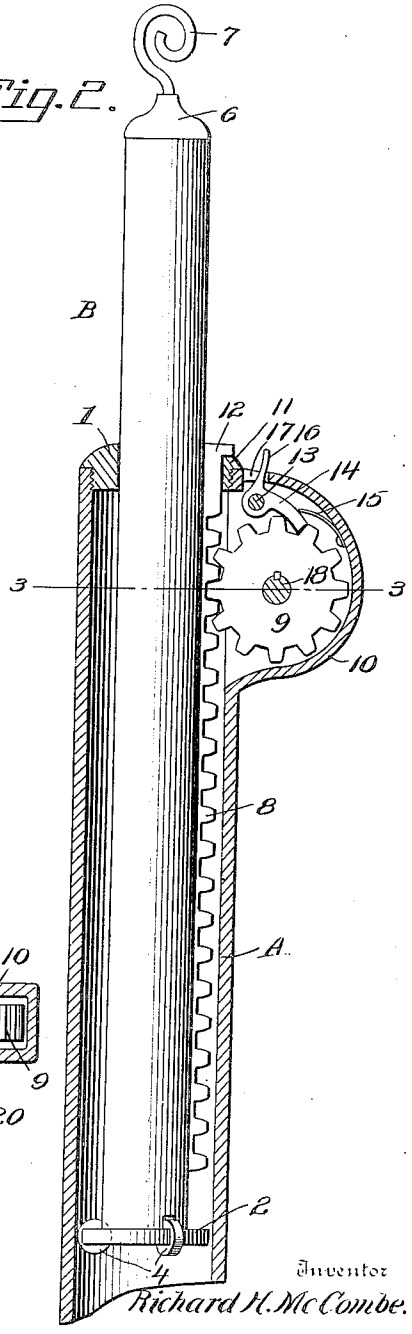


Fig. 3.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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EXTENSIBLE POST OR PROP.

No. 897,843. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 1, 1908.

Application filed December 10, 1907. Serial No. 405,973.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RICHARD H. McCOMBE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Waverly, in the county of Baltimore and State of Maryland, have invented new and useful Improvements in Extensible Posts or Props, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an extensible post or prop which is admirably adapted for clothes lines, although it is not necessarily limited to this use.

The invention has for one of its objects to improve and simplify the construction of devices of this character so as to be comparatively easy and inexpensive to manufacture, readily operated, and composed of few parts.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a post or prop composed of telescopic sections with means for extending the movable section and locking the same in any desired position.

Another object is to provide a post in which the extensible section is equipped with a rack with which meshes a pinion supported on the fixed section, there being an operating crank for turning the pinion to project the extensible section, and coöperating with the pinion is a spring-pressed pawl for holding the said section in projected position.

With these objects in view and others, as will appear as the description proceeds, the invention comprises the various novel features of construction and arrangement of parts which will be more fully described hereinafter and set forth with particularity in the claims appended hereto.

In the accompanying drawing, which illustrates one of the embodiments of the invention, Figure 1 is a side elevation of the device. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section of the device showing the extensible member in elevation. Fig. 3 is a transverse section on line 3—3, Fig. 2.

Similar reference characters are employed to designate corresponding parts throughout the several views.

Referring to the drawing, A designates the lower section or member of the prop or post which may rest at its lower end on the ground in case the prop is to be portable, or it may be planted in the ground when the prop is to be stationary. The member A is tubular and has at its upper end a cap 1 threaded therein which constitutes a guide for the extensible or movable section B. The lower end of the section B has a peripheral flange 2 that is provided with radial notches 3 in which are disposed anti-friction rollers 4 that turn on pivots 5, the said rollers being arranged in contact with the internal surface of the section A so that the extensible section can be freely moved. The upper or outer end of the section B is provided with a cap or fitting 6 which may be removably secured to the said section and is provided with a spiral hook 7 or any other suitable fastening into which the clothes line is engaged.

In the present instance, the means for raising and lowering the section B comprises a rack 8 secured to and extending longitudinally of the section B, and meshing with the rack is a pinion 9 contained in a housing 10 formed on the section A. The cap 1 has a slot 11 to accommodate the rack 8 and projecting laterally from the upper end of the rack is a lug 12 for preventing the inner section B from dropping completely into the section A. Pivoted at 13 in the housing 10 is a pawl 14 that is pressed by a spring 15 into operative relation with the pinion so as to prevent the latter from turning under the weight of the section B and tension of the clothes line, and on the pawl is a finger piece 16 that passes upwardly through a slot 17 in the housing for permitting the pawl to be released from the pinion when it is desired to return the section B. The shaft 18 of the pinion extends out of the housing 10 and has a squared end 19 to which is fitted a crank 20. In practice, the clothes line is engaged in the hook 7 and when the clothes have been pinned to the line, the latter can be raised to the desired position by merely turning the crank 20. In turning the crank, the pinion 9 turns in a clockwise position, Fig. 2, and the pawl 14 yields under the action of the teeth of the pinion. As soon as the crank is stopped, the pawl will engage the pinion and prevent the latter from turning in a reverse direction, thus supporting the section B in raised position. When it is desired to contract the post or prop, the finger piece 16 is pressed inwardly toward the post so as to raise the engaging end of the pawl out of the path of the pinion teeth. This will permit the section B to drop of its own weight until the lug 12 engages the cap of the member A.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, the advantages of the construction and of the method of operation will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, and while I have described the principle of operation of the invention, together with the apparatus which I now consider to be the best embodiment thereof, I desire to have it understood that the apparatus shown is merely illustrative, and that such changes may be made when desired as are within the scope of the claims.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim is:—

1. In a prop, the combination of a tubular outer section, a cap removably secured in the upper end thereof, an inner section passing through the cap and guided by the latter, a peripheral flange on the lower end of the inner section and provided with radial slots, rollers mounted in the slots and engaging the internal surface of the outer section for cooperating with the said collar for guiding the movement of the inner section, a longitudinally-extending rack on the inner section, a pinion on the outer section to engage the said peripheral flange for limiting the upward movement of the inner section, and means for actuating the pinion.

2. In a prop, the combination of a tubular section, a cap therefor having a slot, an inner section guided by the cap, a rack on the inner section and passing through the slot and serving to prevent relative turning of the sections, a laterally-projecting lug at the upper end of the rack for engaging the cap to limit the inward movement of the inner section, a housing on the tubular section, a pinion in the housing, a crank for turning the pinion, a spring-pressed pawl for engaging the pinion to prevent the inner section from moving inwardly under its own weight, and a finger piece extending out of the housing and connected with the pawl for releasing the latter to permit the inner section to drop under its own weight.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

RICHARD H. McCOMBE.

Witnesses:
F. L. MORTIMER, Jr.,
ANNIE E. MORTIMER.